Newsletter of the JUDICIAL PROCESS COMMISSION, INC. ISSN 1077-6516 Editor: Jack Bradigan Spula *In this issue:* Cannabis ban (1), Youth emergency services (4), Egg farm sentencing (5), Warney case (6), Violence of power (7); JPC Annual Report (8)

May-June, 2006

# )usticia

# WHO PROFITS FROM CANNABIS BAN?

By Clare Regan

#### Pharmaceuticals

Two recent developments have once again drawn attention to the folly of the ban on cannabis. One is the impact of cannabis on cancer and the other is the need to use biofuels as a means of providing clean fuels and reduce our dependence on Middle East oil.

A comprehensive review published in the October 2005 issue of **Mini-Reviews in Medicinal Chemistry**, and publicized by Paul Armentano of NORML, concluded "Cannabinoids possess. . .anticancer activity [and may] possibly represent a new class of anti-cancer drugs that retard cancer growth, inhibit the formation of new blood vessels and the metastatic spreading of cancer cells."

This information has been available, and ignored by the US government, since a study done at the Medical College of Virginia was reported on August 18, 1974, in a feature in the **Washington Post.** It stated that the administration of THC, the primary and psychoactive cannabinoid of marijuana, "slowed the growth of lung cancers, breast cancers and a virus-induced leukemia in laboratory mice, and prolonged their lives as much as 36 percent."

In the mid-1990s, a \$2-million study by the U.S. National Toxicology Program concluded that mice and rats administered high doses of THC over long periods experienced greater protection against malignant tumors than untreated controls. The

government again ignored the results even after they were leaked in 1997.

Researchers at Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, reported in 2000 that injections of synthetic THC eradicated malignant brain tumors in a third of treated rats and prolonged the life of another third by six weeks. This was publicized widely enough that I reported it in a Jan.-Feb. 2002 article in **Justicia**.

Recently, the fact that THC proved more beneficial than the synthetic agent in decreasing the proliferation of cancer cells and inducing their death more rapidly, while leaving healthy cell unscathed, was acknowledged.

In the Jan.-Feb. 2003 issue of Justicia I reported that Professor Rafael Meshoulan of Hebrew Institute in Israel had developed dexabinol, which is a mirror of THC except for the psychoactive effect. Meshoulan had also developed Marinol, a synthetic THC. Marinol can cause hallucinations and doesn't give the relief smoked marijuana does, since it is given in pill form. Dexabinol has been found to reduce brain damage caused by convulsions brought on by nerve gas exposure in mice. When injected 5 minutes after exposure, damage was reduced 86 percent; 40 minutes after exposure, 81 percent. There is a strong possibility that brain damage from strokes and head injuries could also be reduced. Would smoked marijuana have a similar effect, and should marijuana be in first-aid kits supplied to our fighters in Iraq who can suffer devastating head injuries from IEDs?

Meshoulan believes that if marijuana were legal it could replace 10-20 percent of all pharmaceuticals and therapies. It was used medicinally in this country until banned in 1937 by Harry Anslinger, the equivalent of a present-day drug czar.

Marijuana is a bronchial dilator, so is useful in asthma attacks. It can control migraine headaches, epilepsy, muscle spasms from spinal injuries and multiple sclerosis, nausea from chemotherapy, and is useful in treating scleroderma and depression. Cannabiniolic acid is a disinfectant and when dissolved in alcohol controls herpes of the skin. Cannabinol can be used to combat insomnia. Cannabinoids can relieve the inflammation of arthritis when injected into the site of the injury and can block the onset of extreme sensitivity to pain that flares up during nerve diseases and spinal cord injuries. And smoking marijuana helps the wasting syndrome in AIDS patients.

A cynic would wonder if the large donations given to politicians by pharmaceutical companies could be influencing the government's refusal to legalize marijuana. Or even the fact that legalizing marijuana would impact financially on those who owe their livelihood to the drug warriors - from the cops on the street, to jail and prison personnel, to the drug counselors who get most of their marijuana clients through court referrals. - could be influencing government decisions.

There must be some logical explanation, since there have no known overdoses from marijuana ever. Several hundred deaths a year are attributed to aspirin use. As Administrative Law Judge Francis L. Young said in 1988, "Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man." (Over 100,000 patients die yearly from adverse reactions to drugs prescribed and taken in accordance with pharmaceutical directives.)

#### Biofuels

The other development that should focus the spotlight on cannabis is the current interest in biofuels. Brazil expects to end its importation of Middle East oil by the end of this year. Acres and acres of sugarcane are grown there. Sugar and ethanol are produced from it by using the fibrous remain of the cane (bagasse) as the heat source for distilling the ethanol. According to a CNN report, 70 percent of the cars there use only ethanol, with the remainder operating on a 85/15 percent ethanol/gasoline mixture. All the cars are Flex-fuel models. Ford produced a Flex fuel car in the U.S. (cont'd.)

## JUDICIAL PROCESS COMMISSION

121 North Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14614 585-325-7727 email: info@rocjpc.org

#### 2005-2006 Commission members:

Yolanda Asamoah Wade (Chairperson) Mary Boite, Joyce Clark, Vivian Cook Johnson, Laurie Hamlin (Treasurer), Robert H. Jones MD, Gail Mott (Secretary), Harry Murray, Clare Regan, Jack Bradigan Spula (*Justicia* editor), Fred Schaeffer, Mary Sullivan RSM, Jacquie Whitfield, Louise Wu Richards. **Staff:** Tabitha Barber, AmeriCorps; Todd Brady, consultant; James Caldwell, Mentor Coordinator; Anna Marie Dygert, AmeriCorps; Mark Hussey, AmeriCorps; Victoria Kushner, AmeriCorps; John Mourning, Mentor Outreach; Susan K. Porter, Coordinator.

(cont'd from above) President Bush has been pushing for the development of distilleries to produce ethanol from corn. Lester Brown, founder of Worldwatch Institute and Earth Policy Institute, has calculated the yield per acre of ethanol from various plants and also the energy gain compared to the energy invested in the production and refining of the ethanol. Sugarcane produces 662 gallons of ethanol per acre, with 8 units of energy gained per each unit of energy invested. Corn, on the other hand, gives 354 gallons per acre but only 1.5 units of energy per unit invested. Switchgrass yields 1,150 gallons per acre but only 4 units of energy. Corn obviously isn't an ideal source for biofuel.

The following information on corn was obtained from **Omnivore's Dilemma** by Michael Pollan (Penguin Books, 2006). Hybrid corn can be grown 30,000 stalks per acre as opposed to 8,000 stalk of non-hybrid. The hybrid variety is genetically engineered and uses more fertilizer. More than half of all synthetic nitrogen produced today is used in growing corn. Excess nitrogen product run-offs pollute rivers and water supplies in cities. Each Spring, parents in Des Moines, Iowa (a prominent corn-growing state), are warned not to give children tap water because the nitrates in the water bond with hemoglobin and lower the oxygen delivered to the brain.

Besides the natural gas used to make the fertilizer, fossil fuels are used to produce the pesticides, operate the tractors, dry and transport the corn. Every bushel of corn produced requires a third to a half gallon of oil. Iowa State University calculated that it costs \$2.50 to grow a bushel of corn. In October 2005, the grain elevators paid \$1.45/bushel. The government subsidizes farmers a dollar a bushel. (Selling corn to Mexico under NAFTA has driven many poor farmers out of business.)

A plant in Goldfield, lowa uses coal as an energy source to extract the ethanol from corn. Burning coal can lead to pollution unless it is carefully controlled. In Nebraska, an extraction plant was built next to a feed lot. Methane from the cow manure is used to fire the plant. The unfermentable portions of the corn or other plants, such as begasse, can be used as sources of power.

Hemp wasn't included in Lester Brown's study, but it is known to have many times the cellulose of corn. It self-fertilizes, is drought resistant, needs virtually no pesticides, re-seeds itself, and is faster growing than corn. The leaves add nutrients to the soil, and its long roots help restore otherwise marginal land. One ton of hemp produces about 100 gallons of methanol, up to 2,500 gal/acre.

Before 1883, 75-90 percent of the world's paper was made from hemp. Hemp uses peroxide, unlike the chlorine products used in wood, to bleach the paper. A machine was invented in 1937 that made hemp use economically competitive with the forest purchased by Hearst, and for various DuPont products. For political reasons, Harry Anslinger, the then drug czar, had marijuana (cannabis) banned.





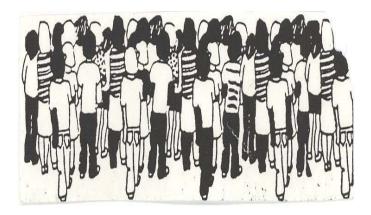
Hemp seed is the second most complete protein source known, second only to soybeans. The unique combination of amino acids, enzymes and globulin oils, including omega-3, enable the human body to utilize it more effectively than soybeans. Hemp seed extracts, like soybean, can be spiced to taste like steak, chicken and other meats, and can be processed into tofu-like curds. During the famines in Australia in the 1800s, food from hemp seeds provided the necessary protein for survival and the leaves provided the roughage. Today, starving people, such as those in Darfur, could be fed this way. One handful of hemp seed a day will provide adequate protein and essential oils for an adult.

The oil has no saturated fat. There are no psychoactive ingredients in hemp seed.

The stalks can be used to make cloth from linens to canvas, depending on how close the seeds are planted and the age of the plant at harvest. Hemp cloth is more durable, and more comfortable, than cotton. It is estimated that nearly half the chemicals used in agriculture are used to grow cotton. The hurds from the plant can be used for paper. This uses hydrogen peroxide as a bleach, instead of the chlorine needed to whiten paper from wood, thus saving environmental pollution. Also the stalks can be used to build cheap, and well insulated houses that withstand earthquakes and hurricanes better than conventional ones. Such housing could replace the shacks used by the poor here and abroad.

It should be noted that hemp was the largest cash crop in Kentucky until 1920. It is now the most valuable agricultural product in Canada, according to a November 2003 article in **The**  **Guardian.** China, France, Russia, Germany and other European Union countries allow growing of industrial hemp. Some fear that if the growing of hemp were allowed, people would try to grow marijuana in the same plot. Hemp contains less than 1 percent THC and is planted over 300 seeds per square yard, while marijuana is planted 2 seeds per square yard. If marijuana plants were planted in the same field, they would cross pollinate with the hemp and the THC would be reduced.

Once again, who profits from the ban on hemp? Corn-producing states, oil companies, those who use wood for paper and cotton growers, among others. Isn't it time that the general public becomes educated about cannabis and demands that it be legalized. All mention was removed from textbooks in the 1970s. The government published a film, *Hemp for Victory*, during World War II when it was used in the war effort. This film has now been suppressed. How much longer will we permit such illogical control of our minds and our health?



## YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Phogg Phoundation for the Pursuit of Happiness (Austin, TX) – a JPC supporter **END THE DRUG WAR NOW!** 

War ends when peace is achieved. Here is a program for at first a "cease-fire," and then a permanent peace in the war on drugs.

We want to promote a national discussion of drug war policies. This discussion should include all drugs, legal and illegal, and have as its primary goal protecting families and children from harm. These ideas could save millions of dollars which could be used to fund education and/or balancing the budget while creating jobs and job training.

1. END THE WAR ON DRUGS AT HOME AND ABROAD. Stop locking up nonviolent drug offenders (including distributors of free, clean needles or distributors of medical marijuana). Stop revoking probation and parole for nonviolent drug use. Institute treatment and restoration rather than prison time for nonviolent "hard" drug users, while providing community service sentencing for violence-free drug offenders. Legalize medical marijuana nationwide. Stop seizing property of nonviolent drug offenders; stop funding law enforcement through property forfeitures. Stop spraying poison and destroying the environment in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, etc. End all US support (financial, technical, and military) for eradicating poppy, coca, and marijuana crops in other countries. End sanctions against countries that want their drug laws to differ from ours.

2. PEACE NOW! Create a domestic peace corps of nonviolent drug offenders. They would qualify for restorative justice and community service: building and repairing homes, schools, and playgrounds; helping keep public spaces clean; assisting at hospitals, hospices, and community centers; helping homebound elderly or handicapped people. Appropriate training and supervision should be provided. Local government, neighborhoods, and communities would decide what services they need and want.

3. BRING HOME OUR OWN PRISONERS OF WAR. Release all nonviolent drug offenders held in federal and state prisons and local jails and allow them to complete their sentences in community service (see #2 above) without threat of going back to jail for nonviolent drug use or failing a drug test. After they successfully complete community service, restore all voting rights to nonviolent drug offenders. Provide counseling and social service options for offenders and their families (the latter may need such as a result of their family member's incarceration).

#### LET'S BUILD SCHOOLS, NOT JAILS! HIRE TEACHERS, NOT PRISON GUARDS!



## A Question of Conscience in Wegmans Egg Farm Break-in By Joel Freedman

Three members of Compassionate Consumers, a vegetarian activist group in Rochester, broke into the Wegmans Egg Farm in Wayne County three times during the summer of 2004. A year later, after the activists were unsuccessful in new efforts to lodge animal-cruelty charges against Wegmans Food Markets, Compassionate Consumers released a graphic video of conditions at the 700,000-hen facility. The activists took several injured hens from the facility and found homes for them. The release of the video did not result in any cruelty charges against Wegmans. Instead, the company pressed charges against Adam Durand, Melanie Ippolito, and Megan Cosgrove, who were indicted by a Wayne County grand jury in September for burglary, petit larceny, and criminal trespass.

Jodi Chemes, a Compassionate Consumers member who was a non-participant in the break-in, was fired from her job as a tax accountant after making public statements critical of conditions at the egg farm. Wegmans is a client of the company that employed Chemes.

Wayne County District Attorney Richard Healy contends that the activists broke the law, and that Wegmans treatment of hens is within the law.

But the ASPCA, which has police powers in New York State to enforce and interpret animalprotection laws, contends that the practice of "induced molting," withholding nutrition for an extended period to shock the hens into laying more eggs, is illegal. Compassionate Consumers has accused Wegmans of using such bird-starvation strategies at its egg farm.

Wegmans did not press any charges against the intruders until after the video was made public. The video depicts chickens packed in wire cages so small that the birds could not spread their wings. The birds were subjected to painful beak trimming. Some birds were found dead in their cages. Live birds were also discovered trapped in manure piles under their cages. The activists recorded everything they saw and did during their unauthorized visits to the egg farm and gave this evidence to law enforcement officials – in hopes that Wegmans would be held accountable. This is not something one would expect from "real" burglars.

Birds are not the only animals that suffer at Wegmans establishments. I have tried unsuccessfully to persuade Wegmans to feed their lobsters, to always provide them space in which to move around, to never cook lobsters alive, and to provide customers with information on more humane slaughter methods – as long as Wegmans insisted on selling live lobsters in their supermarkets.

On May 29, 2003, while shopping at the Canandaigua Wegmans, I decided to try to alleviate the lobsters' suffering for at least that day. I purchased a pound of scallop nuggets and fed them to the lobsters. When I was ordered to leave the store, I replied that I had done nothing wrong, that they were wrong for not feeding the lobsters themselves. Two police officers escorted me out of the supermarket.

A days later, I received a certified letter from Wegmans, advising me that because of my "disorderly conduct" I was banned from entering the store for a two-year period: "Should you enter or remain on the property any time during the twoyear period stated, you will be in violation of trespass and subsequently arrested for trespass."

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: "Cowardice asks us the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it polite?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it all right?' And there comes a point when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor polite, nor popular, but one must take it because his conscience tells him it is right."

I thought about King's words when I learned the three activists had been arrested for their

efforts to help the victimized birds at the Wegmans Egg Farm. I also recalled the words of US Senator Robert C. Byrd who, in a Congressional address five years ago, reminded us that "respect for life and for humane treatment of all creatures is something that must never be lost." I believe Durand, Ippolito, and Cosgrove acted courageously, risking their freedom to expose the cruelties that are commonplace at most factory farms.

Earlier this year, Ippolito and Cosgrove pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of petit larceny and criminal trespass. They were sentenced to probation and community service.

This spring, Durand was acquitted of all burglary and larceny charges but was convicted of three misdemeanor criminal trespass charges by a Wayne County jury. The trial, including the portrayal of cruelty to animals at the egg farm, received nationwide publicity.

A week before his sentencing date, I phoned Durand, who told me he was pleased the jury had found him innocent of the most serious charges. "They saw the animal cruelty for what it was," he said. All the legal hassles, he added, "tough to go through, but it was all worth it." But Durand could not anticipate the draconian punishment he was about to receive.

On May 16, Wayne County Judge Dennis Kehoe disregarded a pre-sentencing probation department recommendation for leniency and imposed the harshest penalty ever imposed in New York State on an individual who, with no prior arrests, had been convicted only of misdemeanor trespass. Durand was sentenced to six months in the Wayne County jail. The sentence also includes a \$1,500 fine, a year of probation, and 100 hours of community service. Kehoe called Durand's acts "vigilantism," and the judge expressed a desire to destroy Durand's videotapes.

Jo Natale, a Wegmans spokesperson, said that Wegmans is "relieved this is behind us, but we are also glad that a strong message was sent that illegal entry onto private property will not be tolerated."

Ryan Merkley, spokesperson for Compassionate Consumers, said: "It's outrageous that they would give him six months. Adam Durand should be applauded, not sent to jail for this."

I wholeheartedly agree with Compassionate Consumers. For more information, go to www.compassionateconsumers.org. The activists' DVD on the Wegmans Egg Farm is at

#### www.wegmanscruelty.com.

(Editor's note: Joel Freedman recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Messenger Post Newspapers for his letter-writing and grassroots activism; indeed, he's been a leader in causes benefitting animals, the environment, human rights, and more.)



## DEATH PENALTY UPDATE Warney case highlights injustices – and Albany needs to get the message

By Jack Bradigan Spula

In mid-May, Rochester became a focal point for the nation's, and New York State's, longstanding debate about capital punishment.

The case of Douglas Arthur Warney was the stimulus. Warney spent more than 10 years locked up in connection with a vicious murder that took place on New Year's Day 1996. He had originally been charged with capital murder on the basis of what has proved to be a false confession; ultimately he was convicted of second-degree murder and given a long prison sentence. Now DNA tests have proved someone else – a confessed killer already in prison – was the murderer. And with this new evidence, plus the long efforts of advocates like the Innocence Project, Warney has been freed.

As a New York Times report put it, Warney,

who is a person living with advanced AIDS, was "not expected to live" long enough to complete his prison sentence. But he has survived the justice system's treatment to become yet another symbol a testament to how wrong the system can go. And behind his case lurks a powerful implication – that if New York State revives the death penalty, wrongful prosecutions and simple errors could lead to innocent people being executed or condemned to a living hell.

After applauding Warney's release, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty reminded us about what's been happening in Albany: "Last year, following a series of five public hearings on capital punishment, the Assembly Codes Committee wisely rejected a bill to reinstate capital punishment in New York as too expensive, unfair in application and - in cases such as Mr. Warney's - open to the possibility of a horrible, unthinkable mistake." Then on June 13, NYADP executive director David Kaczynski commented on even more recent news that the state Senate had just voted "to resurrect a flawed, unfair, costly and dysfunctional capital punishment system." Kaczynski noted that the Warney case underscored the fact that the system "is not immune to the flaws and failures that have led to wrongful convictions and to the execution of innocent people in other states."

## VIOLENCE OF POWER XII

By Clare Regan

\* Pharmaceutical companies do not base the price of their drugs on research and production costs, says Pfizer chairman Henry A. McKinnell. The most important factor is the "estimation of income generated by the sales of the product" or, in other words, what the market will bear. For example, Genentech increased the price of its lung cancer drug, Tarceva, by about 30 percent because it worked "better than anticipated." Its yearly cost per patient is now \$32,000. **Violence of Power** 

\* In August 2005, Merck sold Mustargen, a drug developed over 60 years ago, and Cosmegan, an antibiotic used to treat a rare form of childhood kidney cancer, to Ovation Pharmaceuticals, a company that markets slow-selling drugs. Mustargen is covered by insurance when used intravenously for Hodgkin's disease but not when it is used as an ointment for T-cell lymphoma. Although Merck is still producing the drugs for Ovation, the price has risen tenfold or more... Abbott Laboratories in 2003 raised the price of Norvir from \$54 to \$265 a month. This AIDS drug was marketed first in 1996 but had no good competitor... In February 2005, President Bush threatened to veto any changes in the Medicare part D drug bill that allowed Medicare to negotiate lower costs with pharmaceutical companies, as the Veterans' Administration had been able to do. **Violence of Power** 

\* The Budget Reconciliation Act of 2005 was passed narrowly by the House of Representatives on February 1, 2006. The Senate had passed the bill on December 23 when Vice President Cheney flew in to break a 50-50 tie. Under this bill, states are no longer required to pay for family planning services previously mandated under Medicaid law. However, \$90 million was authorized for Viagra costs. This is in addition to military funding for Viagra for military personnel. **Violence of Power** 

\* Trichloroethylene (TCE) has been responsible for 54 sites near IBM plants being declared Superfund sites. A preliminary report in 2001 by the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that TCE was 40 times more likely to cause cancer and birth defects than previously thought. About 1,400 Defense Department sites, including military bases and depots, are contaminated with TCE. Although the military reduced its purchase of TCE in 2005 to only 11 gallons, the Pentagon, NASA, and the Energy Department challenged the EPA report and its call for environment clean-up. **Violence of Power** 

\* Wayne County Judge Dennis Kehoe sentenced animal advocate Adam Durand to six months in jail, a year of probation, 100 hours of community service and a \$1,500 fine. (See article by J. Freedman in this issue.) After sentencing, Judge Kehoe sent Durand directly to jail, refusing to give him time to make arrangements for his pets. Monroe County spends \$110/day to house an inmate. Even if Wayne County spends only half this amount and Durand serves only four months of his six-month sentence, it will cost taxpayers \$6,600. **Violence of Power** 

# Judicial Process Commission 2005 Annual Report

# VISION

The Judicial Process Commission envisions a society with true justice and equality for all. We understand that in a just society, all institutions will be based on reconciliation and restoration, instead of retribution and violence.

# MISSION

The JPC is a grass roots, nonprofit organization that challenges society to create a just nonviolent community which supports the right of all people to reach their fullest potential. We do this by:

- Providing support services for those involved in the criminal justice system
- Educating the public
- Advocating for changes in public policy.

## SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PAROLEES & PROBATIONERS: EMPLOYMENT, MENTORING & ADVOCACY

A total of approximately 400 parolees or probationers received direct services from JPC. A recent sampling of 168 customers over a 2 month period reveals an estimated **22% working**, **10.8% in school, or in treatment**, 22.6% are unemployed, 40.5% cannot be located, and 4.1% are in jail. AmeriCorps workers, JPC staff, mentors and students provide reentry support services.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) thanks Rochester Area Community Foundation for a \$20,000 grant. The collaborative includes Cephas, faith organizations, and representatives from the criminal justice system. Both mentors and Public Policy Group members are being asked to deepen their involvement. Additional training and support is provided to mentors every Monday night when workshops are offered. JPC is open until 8:00 PM Monday nights so that mentors that work during the day are able to gain the support they need. Funds were donated so that mentors and mentees could enjoy free meals at a local diner.

The Public Policy Group is builiding support for the pre and post case management proposal. Twenty-nine leaders here have endorsed the report "Gaps In Reentry Services" documenting the need for case management. Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment may take the proposal to the New York State legislature in 2007.

# **RECONCILIATION NETWORK: DON'T KILL IN OUR NAMES**

Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill in Our Names (RecNet), in anticipation of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reinstatement of New York's death penalty on September 1, 2005, organized talks by Malcolm Bell and David Kaczynski, three book reviews at Writers and Books, the play **The Exonerated** at Brockport, an ad which ran at the Little Theater, and the planting of a Peace Tree at Mercy High School. RecNet holds vigils the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Hall of Justice on Exchange Boulevard. We encourage you to join us.

On September 6, 2005, the Court of Appeals, declared that the New York statute was coercive, and therefore unconstitutional, Gov. Pataki immediately asked the legislature to correct the flawed section of the law, that stated that if the jury was not unanimous for either death or life without the possibility of parole, the judge must sentence the offender to 20 to 25 to life with possibility of parole. Jurors, fearing the person might eventually be released, could opt for a death sentence. The Senate immediately passed a revised statute, while the Assembly held a series of five hearings at which 170 people testified. Two prominent committee chairps, Joseph Lentol and Helene Weinstein, who had previously been for the death penalty, changed their views. Speaker Silver refused to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

After the murder of two police officers, Gov. Pataki again asked the legislature to amend the bill, limiting use of the death penalty for the killing of law enforcement officers and prison guards. No changes were recommended to correct the other defects in the statute which might render it unconstitutional, such as geographic and racial disparities in its application, the method of execution, or allowing innocent people to be sentenced to death. For example, three of the seven men sentenced to death in New York State were from Suffolk County which has a low rate of violent crime. A preliminary study in New York found that a person is twice as likely to face a death penalty trial if the victim is white. The question of whether lethal injection is cruel and inhumane is being determined in various states. The U.S. Supreme Court will review Florida's lethal injection protocol. Nationwide, 123 death row inmates have been exonerated, 15 by DNA evidence. Since Gov. Pataki has drastically reduced funding for the Capital Defenders Office, there is a heightened chance that any new death sentence would be overturned due to ineffective counsel.

RecNet members serve as members of the Board of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and give talks on this issue. We urge you to contact your elected representatives to make your views known.

## WHAT DIVIDES US WORKSHOP TEAM

The more awareness is spread in our community about diversity the more we are able to understand each other and build a stronger community. The Team used group discussion and two videos from Stir Fry Productions to explore white privilege and sexism with about 65 people. Mentors from the Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project and participants at Restart, Catholic Family Center, attended the free sessions.

Author and poet Genny Lim says this about the videos "the myth of Eden cracks open as its citizens share what it is like to be locked outside the garden. We watched gripped by their raw emotions, honesty and courage. Why is it so hard to hear?"

The videos from Stir Fry Productions are available to all without a fee by calling the JPC office. The Team provides workshops on racism and sexism at no charge.

## **FUNDING SOURCES**

#### FOUNDATIONS

Rochester Area Community Foundation Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving

#### GROUPS

AIDS Rochester Catholic Family Center The Green Party Local 381 Family Services Pershing Securities Group Rochester Fatherhood Resources Initiative

#### **FAITH ORGANIZATIONS**

#### American Baptist Churches/USA

Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church Public Christian Mission of the Rochester Genesee Region

#### Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Bethany Presbyterian Church Downtown United Presbyterian Church Summerville Presbyterian Church

#### **Roman Catholic**

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rochester Church of the Assumption Resurrection Sisters of Mercy Sisters of St. Francis Sisters of St. Joseph

#### Genesee Valley Association of the

United Church of Christ Irondequoit Mountain Rise

#### Other Faith Organizations

First Unitarian Church The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Spiritus Christi Temple Sinai

#### **OTHER SOURCES**

Individuals & Honoraria

ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF PERSONS SERVED	Justicia newsletter Reentry services Youth Job Readiness & Life Skills Training - Jail and prison correspondence Presentations- Rochester Psychiatric Center, School Without Walls, Nazareth & Mercy HS, U of R Mountian Rise, Baber AME Church, Best Program, Rochester Works, Unity Health Employment Unit/MCDHS	3,500 400 12 400 350
	What Divides Us Workshop	65
	Active Mentors	24
	Trained Mentors	60
	Total	4,811

#### 2005 - 2006 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Yolanda Asamoah-Wade, Chairperson	Harry Murray
Mary Boite	Clare Regan
Joyce Clark (2005)	Jack Bradigan Spula, Justicia Editor
Vivian Cook Johnson (2005)	Fred Schaeffer
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Gail Mott, Secretary	Louise Wu Richards

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## Faith Community Adult Mentoring Program Volunteer Training

## Monday and Tuesday September 11 and 12th, 2006 5:00 to 9:00 PM

### Friends Meeting House, 84 Scio Street. Dinner provided

#### Monday, September 11

- Customer Views on the Mentoring Process
- Policy and Procedures for Mentors
- Mentors' Roundtable
- Understanding Addictions
- Temporary Assistance

#### **Tuesday, September 12**

- Health Issues, HIV, TB, and Diabetes
- Building a Trusting Relationship, Listening and Giving Feedback
- Criminal Justice Processes at the County, State & Federal Levels

Attendance is required for both evenings, reservations required by Sept. 8 at noon. Call: 325-7727. Email: <u>info@rocipc.org</u>. *Endorsed by*: 16 faith communities, criminal justice agencies including New York State Parole and Federal Probation and Cephas, Judicial Process Commission and the Women's Coffee Connection.